



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 3, 2021

Ms. Michele Thiele
Public Information Coordinator
Tarrant Regional Water District
P.O. Box 4508
Fort Worth, Texas 76164-0508

OR2021-30673

Dear Ms. Thiele:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 914358 (TRWD 21.099).

The Tarrant Regional Water District (the "district") received a request for the law enforcement license or certification and the summary of trainings for a named officer. You claim some of the submitted information is not subject to the Act. We have considered the submitted argument and reviewed the submitted information.

You assert the named officer's Texas Commission on Law Enforcement ("TCOLE") identification number, which you marked, is not subject to the Act. Section 552.002(a) of the Government Code defines "public information" as information that is written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business:

- (1) by a governmental body;
 - (2) for a governmental body and the governmental body:
 - (A) owns the information;
 - (B) has a right of access to the information; or
 - (C) spends or contributes public money for the purpose of writing, producing, collecting, assembling, or maintaining the information;
- or

(3) by an individual officer or employee of a governmental body in the officer's or employee's official capacity and the information pertains to official business of the governmental body.

Gov't Code § 552.002(a). Thus, virtually all of the information in a governmental body's physical possession constitutes public information and thus is subject to the Act. *Id.* § 552.002(a)(1); *see* Open Records Decision Nos. 549 at 4 (1990), 514 at 1-2 (1988). Information is "in connection with the transaction of official business" if the information is created by, transmitted to, received by, or maintained by a person or entity performing official business or a government function on behalf of a governmental body and the information pertains to official business of the governmental body. *See* Gov't Code § 552.002(a-1). Moreover, section 552.001 of the Act provides that it is the policy of this state that each person is entitled, unless otherwise expressly provided by law, at all times to complete information about the affairs of government and the official acts of public officials and employees. *See id.* § 552.001(a). You claim the information you marked is not public information subject to the Act. We understand a TCOLE identification number is a unique computer-generated number assigned to licensees for identification in TCOLE's electronic database and may be used as an access device number on the TCOLE website. Accordingly, we find the TCOLE identification number in the submitted information does not constitute public information under section 552.002 of the Government Code. Therefore, the TCOLE identification number is not subject to the Act, and the district need not release it to the requestor. However, upon review, we find the remaining information consists of information that was created and is maintained by the district for the transaction of official business. Accordingly, the remaining information is subject to the Act and must be released, unless the information falls within an exception to public disclosure under the Act. As you raise no further exceptions to disclosure, the district must release the remaining information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

Amy Shipp
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ALS/JM

Ms. Michele Thiele - Page 3

Ref: ID# 914358

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)